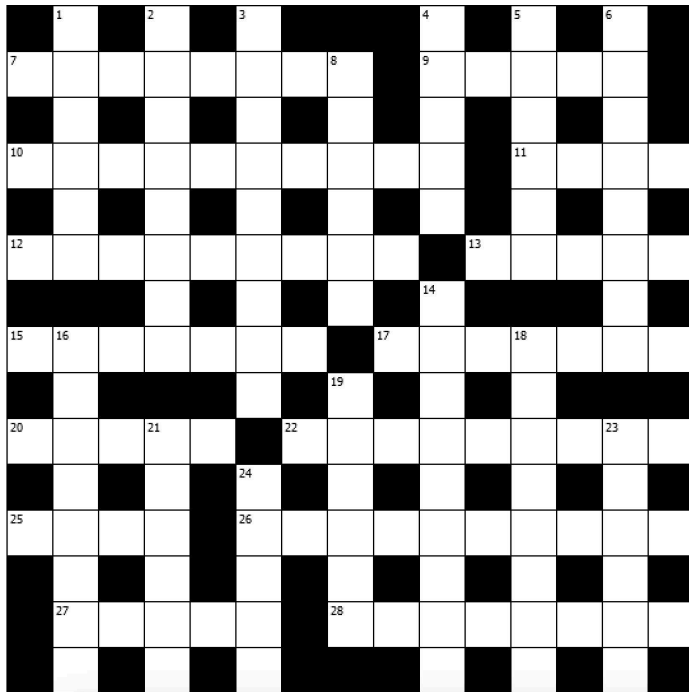


Genius No 265

Set by KGB



Across

- 7 Taking time out, eat ginger nuts in meeting (8)
- 9 Gross, [] [] [] live bird (5)
- 10 Surprising pleasure cycling with sore bum, even though velocity is dropped (10)
- 11 Bankruptcy? That's [] with union issuing stuttering denial (4)
- 12 Wise one catches Dick on backing up electronic act of spying (9)
- 13 Father, [] *gratia*, breaking wager (5)
- 15 Villain in Shakespeare's first [] (7)
- 17 Defeats, as separately mobilised, so to speak, the least attentive? (7)
- 20 & 4 Mole shown by a book collection about Earth (10, 1 word)
- 22 Encounter resistance by a local [] ship chasing marine giant around (9, 2 words)
- 25 [] [] [] [] (4)
- 26 [] group of stunted mice coming after first pair of *Anomaluridae* is related to living animal (10)
- 27 Disinfectant: reduced lye [] (5)
- 28 Marks over letters clued by suspect smuggling [] ditching uniform after free [] around East (8)

Due to a D-notice, wordplay (and two definitions) associated with five characters - appearing as six horizontal or vertical lines in the completed grid - is redacted.

Answers to two normal clues must be thematically modified before entry.

Finally, the initiator of the trouble (five cells) should be highlighted.

Deadline for entries is 23:59 BST on Saturday 2 August. You need to register once and then sign in to theguardian.com to enter our online competition for a £100 monthly prize.

Down

- 1 It could be a rum solution perhaps, given award retrospectively (6)
- 2 Aim for unknown lead lady, stripped of [] (8, 3 words)
- 3 Secure ecstasy at drug [] administration, after KGB had infiltrated complex (9, 2 words)
- 5 & 23 [], [], [] [] [] [] [] [] (12, 2 words)
- 6 Group abandoning work on Hebridean island sanctuary, but only at first (8)
- 8 Musical's good, though short having cut central scene (6)
- 14 Inmates (when run's cancelled) exercise in river [] (9)
- 16 Lacking steak perhaps, [] sickens eating 'Great []' worms (8, 2 words)
- 18 Sacks the heartless [] giving soldier's support (8)
- 19 Puffed out blowing bugle [] [] [] [] (6)
- 21 Veto exhausted [] pies dogging leaders of [] étrangère? Ironically that's admirable (6, 2 words)
- 24 Initially national [] bothered [] English Lady? (5)